Scientists are curious. They ask all kinds of questions and want to find answers. Let’s explore some of the questions scientists ask…

**NOTE: RESERVED, DOCENT-LED SCHOOL TOURS OFTEN STOP AT THE SEAWATER TABLE/TOUCH TANK FROM 10:00 – 10:30 AM and 12:00 – 12:30 PM. IF ONE OF THESE TOURS ARRIVES WHEN YOUR GROUP IS AT THE SEAWATER TABLE, PLEASE MOVE YOUR GROUP INTO THE AQUARIUM SECTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

The following activities are designed for the aquarium section, but can be adapted to the seawater table/touch tank.

**Aquarium Quiz**

1. **Read this to your students:** Here in the aquarium are not only lots of marine creatures, but lots of questions. Scientists are very curious about the different things you’ll see here. Your mission is to work in groups of two or three to spend some time looking at each tank. Read the question and answer you find on each tank. Be ready to share your favorite tanks and their questions with the whole group.

2. Tell students the rule about the seawater table in case a docent-led tour arrives. If your group spends time at the seawater table, you as chaperone need to be carefully supervising them for appropriate and gentle handling behavior.

3. Give students a time limit (say 6-8 minutes depending on your schedule) and tell them to meet in front of the “Sandy Seafloor” tank to share their favorites.

4. After the time limit is up, ask students to share their favorites and why.

**Masters of Camouflage**

1. Start at the “Sandy Seafloor” tank.

2. Ask what it means if an animal is camouflaged. Discuss that many animals are able to blend in to their surroundings—by color, shape, behaviors—to hide. This adaptation helps them survive by hiding from predators or sneaking up on prey animals.
Masters of Camouflage (continued)

3. Use one of the animals in the Sandy Seafloor tank as an example. Discuss with students what helps the animal you selected camouflage — color (like sand)?, shape (flat to blend with bottom)?, behavior (does is bury itself in the sand)?

4. Their mission is to look for the many other examples of camouflage they can find. They should try to figure out what helps each found example to be camouflaged — color, shape, behavior, a combination? They can work in groups of 2-3.

5. Set a time limit and meet back at the Sandy Seafloor tank to discuss their findings.